

197
GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 145. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 26, 1863.

I..Before a Military Commission, which convened at the Headquarters 3d Corps, March 5, 1863, pursuant to Special Orders No 61, dated Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Camp near Falmouth, Virginia, March 3, 1863, and of which Major General D. E. SICKLES, U. S. Volunteers, is President, were arraigned and tried—

1. *James R. Oliver*, a citizen of Maryland.

CHARGE.—“Treason.”

Specification—“In this; that *James R. Oliver*, being a citizen of Maryland, was taken prisoner while in arms in the ranks and uniform of the rebel army. This at or near Rappahannock Ford, on or about February 25, 1863.”

To which charge and specification the accused, *James R. Oliver*, citizen of Maryland, pleaded as follows :

To the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

To the CHARGE, “Not Guilty.”

FINDING.

The Commission, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, *James R. Oliver*, citizen of Maryland, as follows :

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

SENTENCE.

And the Commission does therefore sentence him, *James R. Oliver*, citizen of Maryland, “To be hung with a rope by the neck until dead, at such time and place as the President of the United States may appoint; two-thirds of the Commission agreeing therein.”

2. *Samuel C. Betts*, a citizen of Maryland.

CHARGE.—“Treason.”

Specification—In this; that *Samuel C. Betts*, being a citizen of Maryland, was taken prisoner while in arms in the ranks and uniform of the rebel army. This at or near Rappahannock Ford, on or about February 25, 1863."

To which charge and specification the accused, *Samuel C. Betts*, a citizen of Maryland, pleaded as follows:

To the *Specification*, "Guilty."

To the CHARGE, "Not Guilty."

FINDING.

The Commission, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, *Samuel C. Betts*, a citizen of Maryland, as follows:

Of the *Specification*, "Guilty."

Of the CHARGE, "Guilty."

SENTENCE.

And the Commission does therefore sentence him, *Samuel C. Betts*, a citizen of Maryland, "*To be hung with a rope by the neck until dead, at such time and place as the President of the United States may appoint; two-thirds of the members of the Commission concurring therein.*"

3. *James Rider*, a citizen of Maryland.

CHARGE—"Treason."

Specification—"In this; that *James Rider*, a citizen of Maryland, was taken in arms in the ranks and uniform of the rebel army. This at or near Rappahannock Ford, on or about February 25, 1863."

To which charge and specification the accused, *James Rider*, a citizen of Maryland, pleaded as follows:

To the *Specification*, "Guilty."

To the CHARGE, "Not Guilty."

FINDING.

The Commission, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, *James Rider*, a citizen of Maryland, as follows:

Of the *Specification*, "Guilty."

Of the CHARGE, "Guilty."

SENTENCE.

And the Commission does therefore sentence him, *James Rider*, a citizen of Maryland, "*To be hung with a rope by the neck until dead, at such time and place as the President of the United States may appoint; two-thirds of the Commission concurring therein.*"

II.—Before a Military Commission, which convened at Camp near Rectortown, Virginia, November 7, 1862, pursuant to Special Orders No. 34, dated Headquarters of Provost Guard, near Rectortown, Virginia, November 7, 1862, and of which Major CHARLES J. WHITING, 2d U. S. Cavalry, is President, was arraigned and tried—

Private *William Elliott*, Company "G," 8th United States Infantry.

CHARGE.—"Attempt to commit a rape."

Specification—"In this; that *William Elliott*, private of Company 'G,' 8th United States Infantry, did attempt to commit the crime of rape upon the body of a colored woman named Kate Brooks. This on the premises of her master, (R. M. Johnson,) in Rectortown, on the 7th day of November, 1862."

To which charge and specification the accused, Private *William Elliott*, Company "G," 8th United States Infantry, pleaded "Not Guilty."

FINDING.

The Commission, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, Private *William Elliott*, Company "G," 8th United States Infantry, as follows:

Of the *Specification*, "Guilty."

Of the CHARGE, "Guilty."

SENTENCE.

And the Commission does therefore sentence him, Private *William Elliott*, Company "G," 8th United States Infantry, "*To imprisonment for life in the Penitentiary in the District of Columbia.*"

III..In compliance with the 5th section of the act approved July 17, 1862, the proceedings in the cases of *James R. Oliver*, *Samuel C. Betts*, and *James Rider* have been submitted to the President of the United States, who disapproves them, as the record shows clearly that the accused are prisoners of war, and should be treated as such and exchanged. In compliance with the 5th section of the act approved July 17, 1862, the proceedings in the case of Private *William Elliott*, Company "G," 8th United States Infantry, have been submitted to the President of the United States, who approves the sentence, and directs that the prisoner be sent to the State prison at Sing Sing, New York.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.